

Nutbourne Residents Association

Minutes of the Meeting Held at the Rising Sun, Nutbourne at 7pm on Sunday 31st October 2021

Attendees

Committee Members

Bob Allison – Treasurer
Brian White – Chairman

Residents

Betty Sherwood	Jeanette Brickell
Chris Brickell	Jane Allison
Ian Hare (PPC Chairman)	
Sarah Hare	Charlie Goblet d'Alviella
Lynne White	Robin Martin
Ruth Migdale	Rod Wilson
Gil Wilson	Roger Burroughs
Sue Burroughs	Jane Cox
Paul Clarke (HDC Councillor)	
Jill Westlake	Diane Smith
Derrick Frost (West Chiltington Parish Councillor)	
Jacqueline Dobson	Frank Riddle
Erica Riddle	Chris Williams
Liz Williams	Carol Nash
Paul Nash	

Apologies for absence

Carol Martin
Andrew Moffat – NHW Co-Ordinator
John & Pam Wellard
Bridget Gladwin
Peter Gregory
Nad Guest
Jilly Marcuson

Minutes

- Welcome and Apologies – BW expressed his sincere thanks to all those who had decided to attend, and to Regan Howard for the use of The Rising Sun. Apologies are listed above.
- The Minutes of January 2020 AGM meeting were signed off as correct by the Chairman. Proposed by FR and seconded by the Treasurer, BA.
- BA mentioned that subs are normally paid at the AGM but given the good attendance if people wish to make a voluntary contribution of £5 pp or £10 per household he would be very pleased to receive it.

Matters Arising

- 1.1 **Broadband Feedback for WSCC** – BW informed the meeting that he had had a request from Jo Furber at WSCC regarding how the project to upgrade our BB speeds in Nutbourne is currently perceived. BW stated that he had replied giving examples of how improved speeds had been beneficial especially during lockdown, Streaming, Zooming, Catch-Up, home schooling etc. But that residents' views would also be sought at this meeting.

Whilst accepting my points, several residents expressed concern over reduced and variable results regarding actual speeds being delivered and the instability of BB in general. A few examples were quoted by several residents present with download speeds of 30, 32 and 38 Mb per second and as low as 18Mb being delivered to homes within a very short radius.

RW said that he has been made aware of a process called 'Capping' that the supplier may apply to some homes to smooth out speeds to more homes, this is little understood at present. RW also mentioned that he has an appointment booked with an Open Reach engineer in a few days' time to investigate his very poor service, his update is awaited.

PC and IH both updated the meeting regarding a local initiative to provide Fibre To The House (FTTH) in and around the Mare Hill area of Pulborough. IH noted that what started as an initiative for perhaps 50 homes has now grown to around 330 homes. How this may impact increasing the BB speeds for Nutbourne is unknown at present.

FR restated his original request for OpenReach to install a new 'Box' in Nutbourne but BW replied that his understanding was that the new 'box' in Nutbourne Road was, for technical reasons, as far as could be reached. (For clarity the new 'box' is fed by Fibre cable from the Storrington Exchange and then connected to the existing Copper cables that supply our homes. Ultimately FTTH is how to achieve the highest BB speeds.)

Perhaps all residents could perform a speed check on their laptops, desktops or whatever and report back to BW this would give us a clearer view of the service we as a whole are receiving
Action: All

- 1.2 **Our Defibrillator** – BW has been informed by Regan that the defibrillator located in the pub's open Atrium area for many years appears to be unserviceable. An engineer has inspected the unit and suspects the battery has expired. BW has made a number of attempts to source a replacement making contact with PPC, HDC and a Billingshurst Charity but so far with no success, Further attempts will be made, but any assistance would be appreciated .
Action: BW

- 1.3 **Horsham District Council Planning Issues** – BW reported that we have been made aware of a number of issues/applications and these will be covered as follows:-
- DC/21/2235 Marsh House, The Street. CGdA in attendance was able to take us through his application to undertake works to his new family home. Some detail questions were answered and no particular issues were raised.
 - DC/21/2200 Ebbsworth Cottage, The Street. Application to fell one Dwarf Chestnut tree. FR questioned if this could be correct as he was not aware of a Chestnut tree on that property, but that the site plan should be with the application.
 - DC/21/2121 Redfold Farm application to demolish existing house and replace with modern 4 storey house. This application was submitted before the NRA could meet and residents were advised to submit their own objections if so inclined, IH advised that PPC had actually objected to the application, which now resides with HDC. The meeting was advised that the deadline for submitting objections has been extended to 9th Nov.

- Lane Top, The Street. The long running saga of Lane Top, and the number of Traveller Pitches that are permitted, continues. The most recent application for 2 additional pitches was objected to by local residents, PPC and eventually HDC Planning Committee who rejected the Planning Officers proposal to approve the application. However it has now been established that the Local Plan for the Horsham District, prepared by HDC's Strategic Planning Dept. proposes an increase of 5 additional pitches, which would take the total to 7 caravan pitches plus the 'mobile home' that is already there. This was met with incredulity by those present, and PC was asked to explain how this could be so. It appears that Strategic Planning matters are dealt with entirely independently from 'day to day' planning matters, and there is little if any crossover of issues/concerns or indeed HDC's own Planning Committee decisions.

PC further explained that government regulations had been recently introduced with 'immediate' effect that severely impacted both HDC's Local Plan and our Neighbourhood Plan for Pulborough with one of the main issues being an edict that 100% Water Consumption Neutrality had to be achieved with any new developments. IH also stated that our Neighbourhood Plan which had been ready for a planned referendum vote has been delayed yet again as a result.

This was all very informative and IH and PC were thanked for their time and input. It was proposed that the NRA, on behalf of residents, would write to HDC expressing our very strong belief that Lane Top should remain 'as is' and be removed from any Local Plan prepared by HDC Strategic Planning. All present agreed.

Action: BW/SB

- 1.4 **Conservation Area Advisory Committee** – We have been made aware that CAAC's have been formed in many areas to provide an extra voice/perspective on Planning Applications to Listed Building and Conservation Areas. Pulborough has such a committee and we have been asked if we would consider setting one up for Nutbourne or perhaps provide a Nutbourne representative to sit on the Pulborough CAAC. After a brief discussion, in which FR gave a summary of how the Nutbourne Conservation and History Group and the NRA came into existence, he talked himself into the post!! Many thanks Frank.

Action: FR

- 1.5 **Back Up plan for Neighbourhood Watch Distribution listing** – BW explained that as a result of being away from home recently he had been unable to put out an 'NHW Email News' to report a local robbery, thereby losing some potentially useful intelligence. The listing of some 110 email addresses is not and should not be easily transferable, so we have to consider how best to proceed, should this situation arise again.

Action: BW/AM

- 1.6 **Asset of Community Value** – BW explained that this is a condition that can be applied to local properties/buildings that are deemed valuable to the community. The Rising Sun had been registered as such from Nov 2015 to Nov 2020, and provides that in the event of a listing for sale the owner has to give notice to the local authority and endure a 6 month period whereby local groups can consider raising funds to preserve the current status of the building. This has most recently happened at The Oddfellows Arms pub on Lower Street, Pulborough. With the approval of the NRA Committee an application has been made to register The Rising Sun as such again. The landlord/owner Regan Howard has been made aware of this.

1.7 **NRA Social Events 2021/22** – LW proposed that perhaps we could consider resurrecting 2 events in the lead up to Xmas. The first being our traditional Evening of Carols at the Rising Sun possibly on the 12th December. This is a Sunday and would need Regan's support.

The second event would be to have pre Xmas Drinks one evening at the pub with hot snacks provided. The date proposed would be Tuesday the 21st Dec. Both dates are to be confirmed and LW will schedule a meeting of the social group as soon as possible. It was noted that there was general agreement that it would be good to hold these social events again.

Action for each element: LW

Any Other Business

- A resident from Stream Lane, JD, expressed serious concern with regard to HGV's being misdirected to use Stream Lane as a 'cut through'. She noted at least one occasion when a serious incident was narrowly averted. She asked if we might be able to have signage erected at the junction of Stream Lane with Mill Road, West Chilton. It was agreed that an approach would be made to WSCC Highways Dept to review the situation.

Action: BW

- IH raised the issue of plans being put forward by Gatwick Airport (LGW) regarding future development. He outlined the potentially serious impacts of environmental pollution and offered to supply the meeting with details of various websites that outlined these proposals, and how concerns can be raised. BW agreed to send the details out by separate email

Action: IH/BW

- FR, in wishing to reduce his carbon footprint, expressed an interest in replacing his gas boiler with an Air Sourced Heat Pump and/or installing Solar Panels to the southerly aspect of his property's roof. He made it clear that he would incorporate solar panels that are fitted flush to the existing roof tiles and brown coloured to try and reduce the visible impact. Lastly he ventured that he may also consider installing an array of Solar Panels in the field opposite his property that he will no longer use to keep his flock of sheep. He stated he would welcome views from residents whilst he continued his research into the cost/benefits prior to considering planning applications, noting that in the Conservation Area this may not be easy.
- JW raised the issue of excessive use a cars horn when approaching the sharp bend in Nutbourne Lane adjacent to her property. CN confirmed that she had noticed a similar issue at the sharp bend adjacent to her property at the other end of the village. It was agreed that BW would make enquiries and gently remind the driver not to make excessive use of his car horn.

Action: BW

In closing the meeting the Chairman thanked all those who had decided to attend and contribute to the meeting, in particular, IH and PC for giving up their time. Dereck Frost then interjected and said he wished to say thank you for allowing him, as a West Chilt. Parish Councillor, to be present and he commended us all on the attendance, coverage of topics, and running of the meeting.

Next Meeting: The Annual General Meeting will be held late in January 2022 which will be notified at a later date.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm, when a flurry of residents very kindly gave their subscriptions.